IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the following claims:

1. (currently amended) A spectroscope that resolves a light beam into separated light beams having various wavelengths, and selects and extracts a separated light beam having an arbitrary wavelength from among these separated light beams, comprising:

masks disposed such that [~~limit~~] a transmission area of each of the separated light beams in a spectrum direction is limited, and masks disposed such that [~~limit~~] the transmission area of each of the separated light beams in a direction perpendicular to said spectrum direction is limited, where said spectrum direction denotes a direction of the arrangement of these separated light beams when viewed against the line of the resolved separated light beams.

2. (original) The spectroscope according to Claim 1, comprising a square small aperture that focuses said light beam before resolution, and a direction of one of diagonals of said small aperture is parallel to said spectrum direction.

3. (original) A spectroscope according to Claim 1, comprising an adjustment device that adjusts the relative positions of each of said masks and each of the separated light beams that propagates towards these masks.

4. (original) A spectroscope according to Claim 1, comprising a reflection preventing means provided on a shielding surface on one or both of said masks on which said separated light beams are impinged.

5. (original) A spectroscope according to Claim 1, wherein a shielding surface on one or both of said masks that is impinged by said separated light beams is slanted so as to avoid facing an optical device adjacent to said shielding surface.

6. (original) A spectroscope according to Claim 1, wherein:

lenses disposed in opposition are adjacent to said masks; and

surfaces of said lenses that are opposite to said masks have a convex shape that is convex towards these masks.

7. (original) A confocal scanning microscope that resolves a light beam from an observation object into separated light beams of various wavelengths, selects a separated light beam having an arbitrary wavelength from among these separated light beams, and receives the selected separated light beam at a photodetector, comprising:

the spectroscope according to any one of Claim 1 through Claim 6 being provided between the light paths from said observation object towards said photodetector.